CHILDREN’S BILL OF RIGHTS

With the Children’s Bill of Rights, the City of Stockton pledges to work toward a community that helps its children and youths grow up with healthy bodies, minds, and spirits that enable them to maximize their full potential and become thriving and contributing members of their community. And it pledges to demonstrate through its commitment of time, resources, and sustained effort that children and youths are its highest priority.

The Children’s Bill of Rights acts to remind policy makers of the needs of children and youths when decisions are made regarding policies, budgets, and government practices.

The City of Stockton proclaims that children and youths are entitled to certain fundamental rights. It proclaims that all children and youths have a right to:

1. Live in a stable and comfortable home with parents, family, and caregivers that love and nurture them throughout childhood;

2. Live in stable homes with loving and nurturing parents and caregivers who support their children and prioritize learning and development, including regular healthy meals, sufficient sleep, good hygiene, and plenty of physical activity;

3. Live in a safe and nurturing environment that includes their homes, schools, parks, neighborhoods, and communities;

4. Be free from abuse, mistreatment, and neglect in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods—to be and feel safe, everywhere they go;

5. Live in homes free from mistreatment, abuse and neglect, and in communities without violence, drug abuse, and gang influence;

6. Have the basics for life, including shelter, clothing, nutritious and affordable food, and supplies for school and extracurricular activities;

7. Access to quality and affordable preventative health services, including access to dental, physical, and mental health care;

8. Visit a doctor, dentist, or counselor when needed to help them stay physically and mentally healthy;

9. Restorative intervention and justice when they make mistakes, including opportunities to heal from trauma;

10. High quality and equitable educational opportunities, beginning in their earliest years and continuing through young adulthood, that emphasize personal
achievement, success in school and life, that develops a lifelong love of learning, and prepares children and youths for higher education;

11. Participate in varied experiences that enrich their lives, including exposure to art, nature, culture, athletics, technology, and music;

12. Have opportunity to contribute to their community, sharing in community-decision making and offering services to others;

13. Have their voices heard and valued;

14. Be encouraged to “dream big,” to be challenged, and to live their lives with hope and aspiration;

15. To have confidence in their abilities to create the future;

16. Develop and maintain healthy and supportive relationships with friends and mentors that promote achievement and success in life;

17. Live and grow in a healthy environment with clean air and water, safe spaces for outdoor exploration, play, and physical activity;

18. Live in a community that demonstrates that all of its children are its highest priority;

19. Read and succeed;

20. Learn and master ideas and skills in and out of school that inspire them, help them understand and be ready for their place in the world;

21. Quality opportunities that adequately prepare them to enter the work force, including college and career counseling and internships;

22. Have parents and caregivers who are prepared and educated to become “the most important persons in the world” to their children;

23. Affordable quality child care, preschool, early learning opportunities and family support services that promote optimum childhood development and school readiness;

24. Know that adults and their peers listen and support them as individuals and respect their diverse cultures, backgrounds, circumstances, talents, sparks, and passions; and

25. Be treated with dignity and respect while being encouraged and inspired by supportive relationships as they move toward their dreams and goals.